

Au Train Township Regular Board Meeting
September 13, 2021
6:00 o'clock p.m.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Au Train Township Board convened on the above date at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michelle Doucette, with the following members present: Mary Johnson, Clerk; Kristy Cota, Treasurer; Jake Miller, Trustee; and Tom Balmes, Trustee.

*VISITORS PRESENT – Approximately 8 persons attended the meeting in person. A complete list is on file with Clerk Johnson.

*APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions and Changes to the Agenda were made as necessary. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the Agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

*MINUTES

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

*BILLS AND CLAIMS

MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to accept this month's bill list as presented and authorize that they be paid as funds are available. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED. (General Fund Checks Numbered #16591 through #16606 - Fire Fund Checks Numbered #8614 through #8626 - Garbage Fund Check Numbered #2087 and #2088).

*BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

•TREASURER'S REPORT - For the Month of August, 2021

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	163,258.84
Deposits		23,180.05
Interest		20.45
Disbursements		12,101.43
Total Checks Not Cleared		530.00
Ending Balance	\$	173,827.91

FIRE FUND CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$	551,124.02
Deposits		
Interest		70.01
Disbursements		3,486.81
Total Checks Not Cleared		230.88
Ending Balance	\$	550,716.35

Certificate of Deposit \$ 51,299.02

GARBAGE FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	177,283.04
Deposits		2,165.12
Interest		21.83
Disbursements		11,793.12
Ending Balance	\$	167,676.87
ROAD FUND CHECKING		
Beginning Balance	\$	324,192.33
Deposits		2,165.12
Interest		41.32
Disbursements		
Ending Balance	\$	326,398.77

*A Complete copy of the August 31, 2021 the report is on file with Clerk Johnson.

Treasurer Cota noted that Summer Tax Collection will conclude on September 15, 2021 - she will be having office hours from 9:00-5:00.

*CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Johnson provided an updated to the Board on recent activities. The audit concluded with Anderson, Tackman and Co., they were able to provide some updates to Quickbook files, simplifying our system. Clerk's State required continuing education continues along with Election Administration Certification. The balance of the month was working on cemetery deeds and coordinating call backs regarding garbage cart distribution with Supervisor Doucette.

*TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Trustee Miller noted he also has received calls regarding the trash service and zoning ordinance amendments. Also discussed the Kayak Boat launches and Heritage Trail park hours.

Trustee Balmes questioned vacation rentals in the Township and voiced concerns over total elimination in some areas where they were previously allowed (either permitted or with a CUP). Mr. Balmes also noted he was meeting with Brian Hinch of the USFS on site at the ballfield on September 16th to discuss the cancellation of the lease agreement and what would be required of the Township.

*SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Supervisor Doucette updated the Board on recent activities, which include addressing several calls. The second garbage cart distribution should happen next week. There will be a spring installation of a dumpster for Joe's Lake on Forest Rd. In addition, the generator did not turn on during the last outage. Mike Sanderson looked at it and indicated there was a problem with the block heater outlet. Supervisor Doucette will contact Superior Electric in Marquette to schedule a repair.

***SPECIAL PRESENTATION -**

Mrs. Katherine Heimburger was present and wanted to discuss what she had thought was a reserved spot in the old section of the Cemetery years ago. Supervisor Doucette had contacted her to indicate the Board Policy on future burials in the old section. Mrs. Heimburger did not remember the date, but indicated that it was discussed at a Board Meeting and approved by the Board. Clerk Johnson suggested she would look through Township Board Minutes and that Supervisor Doucette would get back to her regarding the matter.

***PUBLIC COMMENT -** Public Comments were received from Mary Edgar, in support of Katherine Heimburger and Cindy Petrosick requesting a bigger dumpster at Riverside Condos.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Financial Reports - Clerk Johnson presented monthly financial reports for all funds. All reports were emailed to Board members prior to the meeting for review. 2nd Quarter review and any necessary budget amendments will be presented at the October Board Meeting.

Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission/ZBA - Zoning Administrator McCarthy's report was reviewed by the Board. Discussion regarding the Cory Cole Zoning Violation and subsequent notices regarding the placement of a fence at his commercial property. After further review and discussion, MOTION by Trustee Balmes, second by Clerk Johnson, to authorize the Zoning Administrator to pursue legal remedies through Attorney Greg Murphy to require Mr. Cole bring his property into compliance, as it relates to his business the Yack Shack and fencing. BALMES, YES; JOHNSON, YES; COTA, NO; DOUCETTE, YES; MILLER, NO. MOTION CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be September 16, at 6:00 pm. The Zoning Board of Appeals will be meeting on September 22, at 6:00 pm to review By-Laws and make necessary appointments.

MOTION by Supervisor Doucette, second by Treasurer Cota, to appoint Kathy Reynolds for a 3 Year Term to the Zoning Board of Appeals. MOTION CARRIED.

Assessor/Board of Review - The Assessor's Monthly report was received and on file.

Maintenance Department Report/Comm Bldg./Promotions - Ryan Walther noted that the Brush truck will be going in for a tune-up and oil change. There is an upcoming rental on November 6th for a craft show. The porta jons will be picked up at the end of the month and the Heritage Trail dock system will be out by October 15th.

Cemetery - Discussion regarding the Heimburger request was made. Clerk Johnson noted she would research the matter and also contact former Treasurer Ann Clapp to see if she has any information. There was some discussion about developing some type of certificate for future burials in the old section of the cemetery for persons who would be allowed to be placed next to immediate family.

Fire Department/First Responders – The Fire Department report has been received and is on file. Justen Knuttila was present with cost information on the uniform jackets from Yooper Shirts. After review, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Trustee Cota, to approve up to \$2,130.00 for the purchase of department jackets as presented through Yooper Shirts in Marquette. JOHNSON, YES; COTA, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Information was provided regarding an air compressor/cascade fill station to be placed at the hall. This would alleviate the need to travel for filling of air bottles. After review of the proposals, MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Supervisor Doucette to approve the purchase of a compressor/cascade fill station through Pomasal at a cost of \$19,500.00 plus the cost of wiring. COTA, YES; DOUCETTE, YES; JOHNSON, YES; BALMES, YES; MILLER, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

The new Pumper truck is on track for a February, 2022 delivery. The Pump Testing through Pomasal is complete and the Ladder/hose testing will occur on site October 4th and 5th.

Justen Knuttila and Sean O’Neill are taking classes to become certified instructors.

County Commission Update - Jerry Doucette, County Commission Chair provided an update to the Board regarding recent activities. Mr. Doucette also noted that they will be looking at ways to increase Court security and that Covid-19 Masking Policy has been implemented within the County Building.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

GAD Cart Distribution Update - Supervisor Doucette provided an update to the Board on the GAD Cart Distribution. Adam from GAD confirmed the secondary distribution should be next week. We continue to maintain a list of those who are requesting a cart.

Propane Pre-Purchase at 16 Mile Lake Fire Hall - Treasurer Cota provided information through UP Propane. The lock in rate would be \$1.59 per gallon, but as a new customer we would get \$1.49. They will make arrangements for delivery and set up. MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Supervisor Doucette to contract with UP Propane for service at the 16 Mile Lake Firehall. MOTION CARRIED.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Correspondence - Supervisor Doucette presented correspondence via email from FERC regarding the Au Train Hydroelectric Project (P-10856) to the Board. They are still accepting Public Comments through the online portal on the project.

Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - Clerk Johnson provided information to the Board regarding the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) program. Au Train Township completed the application period without error and were awarded the funds in the amount of \$\$112,414.00. Discussion can begin regarding how the funds can be used. The Board should set a priority list and proceed from there.

L 4029 Tax Rate Request - Clerk Johnson presented the L4029 Tax Rate Request from Alger County Equalization for the Winter 2021 Tax Collection. Amounts were determined during Budget Approval in March. All funds are subject to the Headlee Roll Back formula. MOTION by Treasurer Cota, second by Clerk Johnson, to authorize Tax Rates for the following accounts be collected with the Winter 2021 Tax Collection: General Fund 0.6921; Fire Fund 2.9370; Road Fund 1.9580; Garbage Fund 2.9370. COTA, YES; JOHNSON, YES; MILLER, YES; BALMES, YES; DOUCETTE, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Review 5 Year Road Plan - Clerk Johnson presented the Contract Proposal for 2022 Projects with the Alger County Road Commission along with the proposed 5 Year Road Plan. Engineer/Manager Bob Lindbeck will be attending the October Board Meeting to review.

Public Comment - Clerk Johnson presented a Public Comment Policy for Board consideration. It outlines a 3 minute time limit and discourages Board engagement with the Public. No formal Board action on the Policy.

Blight Ordinance - Supervisor Doucette requested that the current complaint procedure be reviewed and that the Board consider allowing the Board as an entity to file a complaint on blighted properties. There were concerns brought up that the Board might be singling out properties and if they were to take on that role then they should seek out and report all blights within the Township. There was no Board action.

*PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comments were received from John Carr and Jerry Doucette.

*ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, MOTION by Clerk Johnson, second by Treasurer Cota, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:52 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Walther Johnson, Au Train Township Clerk